

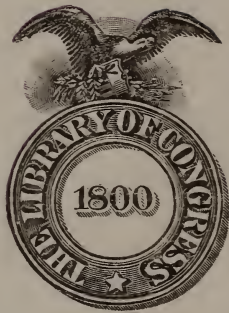
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SIGNS OF THE TIMES

W. T. MINTON



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SIGNS OF THE TIMES




*A Thrilling and
Emotional Re-
cital of the Op-
pression of the
"Toiling Masses
of Humanity,"
from the Build-
ing of the Pyra-
mids of Egypt
to the Present*

By W. T. MINTON



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PREFACE

In attempting to write the "Signs of the Times" I have consulted and compiled the work from the records of the best known authors, endeavoring to render true, impartial facts concerning the oppression of the toiling masses of humanity, and the results of such abuse, at different periods of time in Egypt, England, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, Persia, and the United States. In this digest many truths have been unearthed throwing light on the servile state in which the people have been held which were only recently brought to light. The people only can solve this stupendous problem.

W. T. MINTON.

Signs of the Times

CHAPTER I

EQUAL RIGHTS—REFORM ABUSES AND DESTROY
PRIVILEGES—THE STRIKE AND LOCKOUT

If a man has a right to liberty, or self-government, he has it because of his being a man, and every other man has the same right for the same reason; and the whole structure of human right falls if it be admitted that this or that man has greater rights than another man for any conceivable reason whatsoever. The privileged few who are assuming rights which do not belong to them remind us of the old tale of the serpent that was warmed to life in the bosom of the peasant. The manhood of this generation will deliver a staggering blow to this class, who are making a carcass of our resources that they may continue

to feed. Neither time nor tradition will lend any prestige to such men as are now in control of the financial affairs of this Commonwealth. Such usurpation of the people's rights, and such decrees as are being enforced by the means of combinations of wealth, provoke more astonishment than indignation, and men begin to wonder whether such acts, in defiance of law and justice, are not performed by reason of the actors being drunk with success and blind to the fact that the people are entitled to the benefits of a Constitutional Government. Party names signify but little. Our first object is to reform abuses and destroy privileges. But when it is plain that the party in power has neither the firmness to refuse what it does not wish to grant, nor good faith to grant what its weakness leads it to promise, it is evident that such a party cannot long rule in the United States. In such a case, the question is to ensure the perpetual removal of such a party, and we know the only means for so doing is to transfer the administration to

another party. Public interests have become mere commodities of trucking, trade and commerce. Justice and reason have been ignored, and even the Constitution has become a dream of visionaries. I foresee that fortune will not always follow our present masters, and the more they enslave us the more terrible will be the reaction when it comes. Sordid souls, corrupted by base love of gain, they must soon behold the gulf that now gapes at their feet. The people are determined to do away with legislation solely for the benefit of aristocrats, plutocrats, trusts and combines. For a long period during the mediæval centuries and subsequent centuries, industry existed in a stable condition, or in one whose changes were few, and none of them revolutionary. Manufacture was in a large sense individual. Employees worked for the master with an independence that no longer exists. When we go back into the past centuries it is to find another world of labor radically different from that which surrounds us to-day. A new condition

of industrial affairs has come, and the industrial class is not prepared to meet it. Everywhere the employers are supreme and the men are at their mercy. The weapon of defence is the strike, and the reverse of this is the lock-out. As population increases and labor associations grow stronger, the present mode of adjustment between labor and capital will be attended with bloodshed and destruction. And that the difficulty will ever be settled in this way cannot be expected. Employers must replace violent measures by peaceful arbitration, in agreeing to share a portion of their profits with their laborers. In Great Britain, where the workmen control the situation more fully than in any other country, workmen act as though they were partners in the business, and have their own interests to serve. They do more and better work, increasing the profit to cover their share of the proceeds, leaving that of their employers undiminished. The result is that strikes and lockouts have almost ceased to exist and profit-sharing full of promise. In

France, profit-sharing has made great progress, as it has also in Germany, Austria, and Denmark. Similar institutions may solve the labor problem in every civilized country. Profit-sharing in many large stores and factories has been introduced in the United States, but with little progress. An economic situation is now at hand in this country which must be settled in some way. It is not yet clear just how the brake will be applied. It is hard to prevent capital from pooling its forces, and legislation may fail to provide means by which the root of the disease can be reached. But the cure is sure to come. The class of employers being reduced to a few very rich men, absorbing the profits of industry and holding the remainder of the community in a condition of bonded slavery, has become unpleasant and intolerable. By reason of the vast improvement in machinery, a laborer can now often produce fifty times as much as formerly, and sometimes a hundred times as much. The skilled laborer is en-

titled to a fair share of this increased product. But the beneficiaries are ten thousand multi-millionaires, while there are eighty million on the other side. This state of affairs will exist no longer than is required to convince the public of the best way to destroy the system without injury to the established rights of property and other conditional guarantees. A free country is one where public opinion is supreme and the will of the majority is duly executed.

CHAPTER II

GREATEST GOOD TO GREATEST NUMBER—CON- TRAST OF THE WEALTHY AND THE LABORER—IMPENDING REVOLUTION

The history of man has been one continual struggle to obtain control of the law-making power. Whatever person, or party, could obtain the mastery has imposed their will upon the weaker, making the labors and toil of the latter contribute to the ease and comfort of those who made the law. The law at any given time is the record of what the stronger have decreed in their own interest. The greatest good to the greatest number is the foundation principle of a republic. In the dawn of history brute force, backed by an army paid out of the plunder of the unfortunate, kept the many under subjection, and the army was aided by the ministers of superstition, whom were paid in like manner. In

later times the higher class forced the despot to share the wealth produced by the masses, and became hereditary nobles. From one epoch to another the mass of toilers have groaned beneath their burdens. Then came our own movement more than a century ago to remove king, nobles, State, church, and special privileges, after which our ancestors thought they were free. But in the opening of the present century humanity has found that a few are appropriating to themselves the wealth created by the many. Let us contrast the present with antiquity and note the difference in the small pay of the toiler. On the banks of the Nile in Africa stand the Pyramids of Egypt. Records from the old historian Diodorus, which have recently come to light, show that to build one of those pyramids cost the labor of 360,000 men twenty years, and that these men toiled under the lash with no return for their work save barely enough bread and onions to keep them alive. When the work was done it was only a tomb to

gratify the vanity of some inhuman king. The palace of Versailles in France cost the lives of another 100,000 men to minister to the vanity of some later tyrant. On the river Nile another work was not long ago completed. It is a great dam which bars the rushing waters from their downward course towards the sea, and preserves them to be led by irrigating ditches to fructify the soil and add millions of acres to be tilled by the husbandmen. It is not an idle tomb nor imperial palace only to gratify the vanity of some ruler. No lash was swung over the backs of the laborers; they were better fed and received their modest wages in due season. But British soldiers took and held Egypt, and British millionaires receive dividends on Egyptian bonds, bought at a discount, and the laborer is left the barest necessities of life. The great dam increases the available territory, and the number of laborers who may toil for their masters. The tribute is collected with more humanity and decency, and modern intelligence has sup-

plied the means by which the laborer may create greater wealth. But the net profit goes to the British bondholder. His pet vanity happens not to be a pile of rock in the desert as a tomb, but it is something, and the nation's labor collected and brought to him by the British Government will be spent to gratify some other insensate vanity. The workman of the Nile does not share in the profits of his labor but little more to-day than he did fifty centuries ago. Countless thousands in our republic to-day are asking how long before they may be permitted to enjoy a fair share of the product of their labor. When they look upon a million dollars a year salary to a Steel Trust president and a hundred thousand dollar salary to many others, and see the magnificent palaces, the splendid steel yachts and luxuries of countless wealth, and then turn to their own squalid surroundings, they wonder at the present distribution of the profits of their labor. These men are not Egyptian fellaheen, and when they demand they must be heard.

There is no higher power in this land than the will of the people, and it is wisdom to aid in the solution of this great problem. It is evident that the industrial country is now in the throes of a revolution, and that the cause must be adjusted either by warring factions or by peaceful arbitration. It has never been the accumulation of wealth that has caused men to decay. The increase of wealth should bring development and happiness. But the unequal distribution, and its accumulation in the hands of a few, has brought down empires and destroyed nations. The Persians increased in wealth and developed their great conquered territories. But when by the law-making power wealth was permitted to accumulate in the hands of a few noblemen, 30,000 Greeks, under Alexander, doubled up the vast empire of Persia like a paper bag. When the Roman peace brooded over the Mediterranean countries wealth multiplied. But afterwards, when the accumulation passed into the hands of a few, the number of people decreased till the

barbarians of the frozen North burst through the depleted lines of the Roman legions, swept over the vast tracts of depopulated country, and laid the civilization of a thousand years beneath the dust. Cliny, in his records, tersely tells us that "Great estates destroyed Italy." Out of the wreck of the once famous "Roman Empire" rose new kingdoms, dukedoms, and countships. The leaders took the lands as hereditary nobles, placed their subjects thereon as tenants, those whom they had conquered as serfs, and called in the aid of religion by its influence over the minds of men the terror which carnal weapons had for their bodies.

CHAPTER III

THE FRENCH REVOLUTION — HOW KING
CHARLES LOST HIS HEAD—EARNINGS
OF GREAT CORPORATIONS—DISREGARD THE
LAW

Again and again the subject masses uneasily moved beneath their burden of king, knight, and priest. In one blinding light flashed the French Revolution. It was the retribution of a thousand years of countless wrongs and oppression. In 1793 a few thousand heads fell beneath the guillotine, but the fact remains that aristocratic writers made the most of it, for their aristocratic readers, and that there were four times as many unjustly put to death in any one year of the preceding century as lost their lives by the knife of the guillotine. The permanent reforms brought about by that great upheaval have affected the whole world. Mankind would still be on a far lower level if

the "French Revolution" had not occurred. Napoleon Bonaparte, the greatest soldier of the modern world, climbed to power over the shoulders of the armies the republic had created. In England in 1265 a struggle between the people and nobility broke out, and Charles I., not knowing how to yield, lost his head. Now neither army nor banded sovereigns dispute the popular will of the people in England. And the demands of the people are now heard and granted; also in France. In 1776 we resolved to abolish all special privileges and all government in the interest of the few, and put the government in the hands of the people. Our example moved the French people of thought and accelerated the French Revolution. In 1832 the monarchy of the English was saved in form only, the abdication of the nobility and gentry being forced in favor of government by the people. Since then England has been, in all but name, a republic. Throughout the civilized world all kings now hold their positions only by suffrage, save in

Russia, where the government is held in place by the army, with a powerless czar and a restless people. The movement of the people in every enlightened country demonstrates their determination to have a larger share of the wealth created by their labor. Simultaneously with this world-wide movement we see the reactionary movement to aggregate all the wealth in the hands of a few multi-millionaires. The earnings of the United States Steel Company, the Standard Oil Company, the Western Union, and the American Tobacco Company last year, as reported by themselves, were half of the total increase of wealth in the whole country. Every man is entitled to the advantages given him by his superior diligence and ability, and should in proportion share in the profits of the products of his good work. But every one knows that the one hundred million of Morgan, the two hundred million of Carnegie, and the four hundred million of Rockefeller have not been obtained in that way, but by methods which have stripped countless thou-

sands of their fair share of this annual wealth. Modern machinery has enabled us to far surpass all preceding ages in the creation of wealth, but we are suffering from Economic Indigestion in the most aggravated form. Whenever the body politic has suffered from such ills, and relief did not follow, the final result was political convulsion and revolution. Trusts are illegal, and their officers indictable, but not in a single instance has a Trust been broken up by the enforcement of the statute. This shows that while the popular will has forced its expression by Congress and the State legislature, that there exists a power stronger than the law. There must have been tremendous pressure upon judge and jury to prevent prosecution and conviction all these years. The Trusts and great corporations alone are privileged to disregard the law. The mere formation of great corporations is no ground for complaint. Great aggregations are due to the natural tendency of the age. But when they seek to secure still larger returns

by forcing competition out, to reduce prices of the producers of raw material and to raise prices to the consumer, they place their hands upon the throat of the people and gather larger revenue than government. Plain as is the Federal statute in such cases, this country has yet to know of any serious attempt to enforce it. We know that it was shown in a legal trial that a pipe line was forced out of business by a greater railroad system by making the price for the transportation of Standard Oil so low that the pipe line could not make enough by transporting Standard Oil to pay for the axle grease on its car wheels. Then when the pipe line was down and out, prices for the transportation of Standard Oil were put back to their former price. The American Tobacco Company has systematically pursued the same course. The great Trusts are in similar ways confiscating the property of others, destroying competition, and the opportunity for individual livelihood. Still they are allowed to go on, growing more defiant every

day. In this year of 1912 the Federal grand jury found true bills against eight of the leading beef barons of the United States, and the government authorities ordered the defendants to Chicago for trial. The farce went on for weeks, ending with an express charge to the packed jury by the presiding judge in the case "that in order to convict, you must find that these defendants are personally responsible for what their firms have done." The release of these law-breakers was a foregone conclusion, and the result was their acquittal, with a big cost heaped upon the helpless people. The acquittal of these beef barons licensed them to rob the people still more, and in less than thirty days they put the price of meats up two cents per pound. The railroads are the greatest of all Trusts, and when Virginia was seeking to compel a railroad which runs through that State and North Carolina to charge lower rates, its head officials filed affidavits that the road was worth \$40,000 per mile, and entitled to interest on that sum. In North Caro-

lina, when the same road was assessed a little over \$12,000 per mile for taxation, its officials got an injunction from a Federal judge on the ground that this was more than its value. These are only a few of the long list of methods by which the Trusts maintain their supremacy over the law. The catalogue of injustices which the masses suffer at the hands of great aggregations of wealth is long. Another method of lawless wealth is to procure the nomination to office by each political party of those subservient to the views of the money power. This is cheaper and safer than backing either party, and then whichever side triumphs, the Trusts have friends in office. Their greatest stronghold is in these men in office, who owe their positions to the powerful influence of organized wealth, or whose servility has been secured, and the powerful lobby which they maintain at Washington and at every State Capital. Their influence in the lobby where the office is appointive has been great. From Aristotle down it has been con-

ceded that great inequalities of wealth have been dangerous to republics. But, instead of government control of Trusts, we are nearer Trust control of government. In this country stockholders of the Western Union have never paid in but \$545,000 in cash, while it is capitalized at \$120,000,000, besides having paid dividends all these years. The Paper Trust levies annually two and one-half million dollars on the press by excessive prices for blank paper, but it is paid to Trust magnates, and not a whimper is heard. We are the same people who resisted a stamp act on paper because not levied by our consent. The people would be opposed to government ownership if the former state of things could be returned, but the Trusts and great corporations have demonstrated that this cannot be done.

CHAPTER IV

POWERS OF THE PEOPLE—TRUE MEN AND ABLE
LEADERS WANTED — PLUNDERINGS OF
BOSSES AND GRAFTERS—READJUSTMENT
OF LAWS

The people are yet all powerful, and when they once realize the true condition of the affairs now surrounding them and demand relief from the masters, it must be granted. When the American people become aroused and demand, there is no power beneath the skies to refuse. Injunctions and bayonets can move only by their permission, and in enforcement of their will. The people will change a plutocratic Senate and a life-tenure judiciary into officials chosen by themselves, representing their interests, and removal at their will. The people are impelled by vicious springs of action, no motives being supplied but wealth and glory. The machine bosses are becoming

tyrants a hundred times more ruthless than were the feudal kings of Europe whom were struck from their thrones ages ago. They must soon encounter hosts animated by the noblest love of country and freedom. Everywhere throughout the land the educated, the enlightened, the broad and liberal minds, see the cause of reform identified with the emancipation from the domination of the new rulers, and their rights as citizens dependent on their national rights. The people are not creatures of the Constitution, but the Constitution was created at their hands. They have changed it, and will change it again at their sovereign will. They are at this time seeking true men and able leaders to express their views. The breed of such men is not yet exhausted, and will be found. A great man is but the highest expression of the will and intelligence of the people among whom he lives. In 1776, if our ancestors had not thought and felt like Washington and Jefferson thought and felt, these great men would not have been

put forward at the critical moment, to lead the greatest movement of the ages.

The struggle now at hand in this country is embittered by the action of the Trusts and the plundering rule of the bosses and grafters. A readjustment of organic law to changed and existing conditons must come to every nation. It is as inevitable as the precession of the annual equinoxes. It may not come to our country at once, but the sooner it does come the better it will be for all. For just behind the scene awaits in grim expectancy, and menacing, a complete rending of the social strata. God save our country from internicine strife by removing the dangers by which it is menaced. Its present state of affairs cannot long continue in peace. On the one side there is a titanic struggle by the money powers to stem the tide of popular government that is sweeping higher around the world. On the other side it is a deseprate struggle of the masses for greater economic opportunities through control of the machinery of the government.

And millions of American people whom have been continually misled by party tags and their wills stifled by a power stronger than the government are now demanding relief, regardless of political parties or party affiliations. The hour has struck when the voice of the toiling millions must be heard and their rights granted. They will support the party that stands for right, support it while it is right, and part with it when it goes wrong. The parties may change positions, but the people will not. They will continue to stand exactly where they are. The time has passed for leaders to lay stress upon their fears of tyranny of the majority to shape their own destinies, and to control the public officials who should be the servants and not the masters of the people. The masses will not longer continue to permit evil, whether political or industrial, to sit in high places and exalt the horn of unrighteousness. They are not advocating discontent and class hatred, but discontent with industrial tyranny and oppression

and with any failure of legislator or judge to see that the rights of the wage-worker and producer are properly safeguarded. There is not only objection to the action of legislator and judge, but to the Chief Justices themselves, when it is found by their actions that they are betraying the interests of the people. And to all men, regardless of position, who interpret the Constitution in such fashion as to show that they do not believe in its preamble, where it explicitly states that it has been created to bring about justice and to promote the general welfare. The bosses who have been governing by means of corruption, suppressing the rights of self-government and in the interests of special privilege, must be driven from public life. There is no class in this country to hate, except financial and political crooks. But they will be cordially hated more and more, until they cease to be crooked, or are deprived of their power to do damage to the rest of us. This is no factional fight or political contest, but a fight to the death for the fundamental

rights of every good citizen, without regard to politics, throughout the United States. The Constitution was conceived by the representatives of the people, and adopted by the people, so that the people themselves could, as set forth in the preamble of the Constitution, better obtain justice for themselves and better promote the good of others. The Constitution is of the plain people. They fought and died for it, live under it, will defend it, and it is for them ultimately to interpret it. They won it, and ordained it, to secure to themselves and their children the blessings of liberty, and they know what it means, and when it is violated. If the people are wise enough to make their Constitution, they are wise enough to protect it. They paid the price for it, and it is safer in the hands of those from whom it sprung. Its enemies, whom have inverted its true meaning by the refinement of deceptive logic and twisted it away from being an instrument for the protection of the people into one to keep from them the means of remedy-

ing the evils of which they complain, are the lieutenants of bosses of special interests. The Federal Government will be empowered through some source to control that class of corporations engaged in interstate commerce having power and opportunity to effect monopolies, thereby destroying competition and forcing individual dependency. The great increase of wealth, the growth of industries, the discovery and development of our great natural resources, and the transformation of our people from illiteracy and isolation to one of an enlightened world power has brought about such changed conditions of life and habits that we have outgrown many of the old forms of law. The cry has gone forth that "through this cycle of change and growth in other respects, the law has stood like the noon of Joshua at Ajalon."

CHAPTER V

REFORMS MUST COME—WHAT THE POOR MAN'S COFFEE COSTS HIM

We may as well write it down; there are going to be reforms. We must keep abreast of the times and heed the demands of the people. Open the door of the altar that they who have grievances may be heard, and right and justice done. The founders of our liberties who wrested from the army of kings our rights and established our freedom upon a firm foundation were sure that the guarantee of a continuance of these and of the pursuance of happiness was a fair and impartial administration of the law. Justice knows no litigant, but in impartial scales weighs each grievance and pronounces judgment as the scales may indicate. Impatiently the people still await the needed reforms of law and a lessening of the miscarriages of justice. It

has recently developed that the coffee drinkers of the United States are now in the grip of the most burdensome monopoly ever laid upon them. They are forced to pay tribute to a combination of American bankers and the government of Brazil, amounting to millions of dollars annually. This combination is able to hold coffee in storage places until there is an apparent scarcity and prices go up with a bound, then unload its supply when it has forced up the price. Finally the price of coffee keeps going up, and the millions of coffee consumers in the country have to pay heavy tribute to the coffee magnates. Relief must come, or the monopoly will grow richer and more powerful while the coffee drinkers everywhere will continue to pay more and more tribute to the Trust. The wholesale price of Brazilian coffee is more than double what it was four years ago. And as Brazil furnishes 85 per cent. of the world's supply of coffee, we have to use Brazilian coffee or go without. Like the other numerous Trusts of this coun-

try, it is robbery pure and simple, sapping the life blood of the people, making the poor man poorer, and putting millions of dollars more into the pockets of the magnates. Justice is not blind. Every wrong done the helpless toilers of this country will correlate itself into a force chastising the wrongdoers. God speed the day when the yoke of galling servitude can be removed. The battles will wax hotter between Democracy and plutocracy, the people and the bosses, until one or the other is finally overthrown.

CHAPTER VI

POLITICAL REVOLUTION STARTED—NOT A PARTISAN BUT A MORAL ISSUE—JUSTICE FOR ALL IN THE INTEREST OF ALL

The national conventions of 1912 fully demonstrated the fact that the political revolution had begun. The conventions loomed bigger than the fate of any individual or the destiny of any party. The flag of revolt was raised and the new era was ushered in with terrific battles for control that was a trumpet-call to the seven thousand of Israel who had not bowed the knee to Baal to stand by us. For the first time in our history the issue was squarely drawn between the reactionary and progressive combinations and the people. It was a struggle in which the foundations of the old parties were shaken from center to circumference, and the meaningless party tags were discarded as worthless labels.

These conventions gave the common people who will be the court of last appeal in this country, their first chance to enroll themselves under true emblems that mean something real and that stand for convictions and principles. It was an inevitable realignment that stripped American politics of shams and pretenses. The raising of the banners of a new political era in these national conventions was the most significant fact of the great battles waged. A new chapter in America begun with June, 1912. The eyes of the world then turned upon the people, whose right to govern themselves went on trial before a world jury. This was the greatest progressive movement in the history of America. The people are demanding the great fundamental rights upon which all successful free government must be based. It is not a partisan issue, but a great moral one. They are not fighting for party rights, but they are engaged in a battle against sinister influences of money privilege, for every decent American, whatsoever his party may

be. The principles for which they stand are as vital for one section of the country as they are for another, and appeal to all honest, patriotic Americans. They are warring for a free hand to work in efficient fashion for true justice, and against privilege of every form. It is the eternal struggle between the two principles—right and wrong—throughout the land. By their very nature these men are bound to battle for the truth and the right. In them burns righteousness like a flaming fire, and they spurn lives of selfish ease and slothful self-indulgence. They do not address themselves only to the cultured and exclusive few; they know well that conscience is not the privilege merely of the men of wealth and cultivation. But they call upon men of character, generosity, unselfishness and courage in this world-battle for equal rights. They ask that those of our people to whom fate has been kind shall remember the less fortunate who work wearily beside them in the strain and stress of our eager modern life. They stand

for the cause of the uplift of humanity and the betterment of mankind, and are pledged to eternal war against wrong, whether by the few or by the many, by a plutocracy or by a mob. Their cause is the cause of justice for all, and in the interest of all. The present contest is but a phase of the larger struggle which must come, without immediate relief for the masses. The fight will go on till the victory is won. We are facing a crisis in the history of a nation here in America where the people have a continent on which to work out their destiny, and what they do will have a similar effect throughout the world. Nowhere else on the globe is there such a chance for the triumph on a gigantic scale for the cause of popular self-government. It will soon be proven that the people of this great republic can rule themselves, and thus ruling can gain liberty for others. The result of this great struggle is far too great to concern ourselves about any particular man or party. The patriots put far above their own interests the

triumph of the high cause for which they battle. What happens to them is not of the slightest consequence, while they fight for the good of country and loved ones. It is far more honorable to fall in battle for a great cause than exist in bondage and shame. And they are fighting honorably for the loftiest of all causes—the cause of freedom. The result of the national conventions of 1912 proved that America faced the gravest crisis of its life since 1860. The battles of these conventions were to the last ditch for the control of the machinery of the government. It was a life and death struggle with the liberal against the conservative, the radical against the reactionary, the progressive against the stand-patter; finally the awakened and aroused toiling people of this country against the bosses allied with big business everywhere. The progressives battled under the militant influences of their leaders whom were as bold as they were able. It was no petty struggle to estab-

lish and maintain these leaderships in these powerful conventions, and those who see only sordid, selfish fight for the aggrandisement of the leaders are blind as to the whole mighty sweep of the world-wide movement for real popular government. The progressives, who fought so desperately under their great general at Chicago are the same type of men and hold the same political beliefs and cleave to the same political ideals as the men who fearlessly followed their greatest of modern generals in his smashing charges to victory in Baltimore. In both conventions the fact was emphasized that the present chaos of existing conditions in American politics has eliminated meaningless party tags. The tumult and clamor further emphasized the fact that the American nation is in the midst of a gigantic struggle for the realignment of policies upon real vital and progressive issues. The ground works upon which the people will build their future government have been made strong and complete.

America now expects every patriot to do his duty in this national battle. It is now important for every soldier to measure up to the expectations of the people.

CHAPTER VII

MACHINE METHODS NO LONGER EFFECTIVE— DAYS OF THE FAVORED FEW DRAWING TO A CLOSE—PROGRESSIVE GOVERNMENT

This subject is a vital one, and is above partisan politics and mere office holding. The people have progressed to the place where there has opened a new era in politics, and sentimentality and prejudice will no longer obscure abuse and error in government. The old machine methods of naming candidates and writing laws without regard for the desires of the masses will no longer be effective. The local political boss who has no higher ideal in politics than to dispense patronage will be as much out of place in this modern era as the wooden plow or first steam engine. Political parties are necessary, because in this way alone the people can act together when they respond to the demands of society for representative

government. But political bosses are a thing of the past. Voters will no longer respond to mere party name and believe that under the present system that government derives its real powers from the consent of the governed. But they will find a way to make one and execute it in a spirit of patriotism and service that succeeding generations will rise to call them blessed. The people now recognize that the powers of government and of wealth are concentrated in the hands of a favored few, and that they now have a money oligarchy more burdensome to America than is aristocracy to England. The contemplation of less than one hundred men controlling more than half of the wealth of this country by dishonest means under the law is a call to arms to every honest, patriotic citizen. The men who advocate stealing under the forms of law, if they and their friends are given a part of the loot, or who will run up the white flag in a fight for principle in order to hold or secure political office will have no place in the

future progressive government. Out of this old practice of favoritism under the law has grown up kindred policies, such as subsidies, toleration of those who form trusts and commit robbery and receive benefits in campaign contributions from those who reap benefits of these policies. Such policies have received the stamp of condemnation by the masses, and must give place to intelligent and patriotic action for the general good. In 1776 the question was political freedom—the right of a nation to govern itself, independent of a king. That fundamental issue was forever settled by bayonets. In 1860 the question was the right to buy free labor at the cost of maintenance, as against the old system of chattel slavery; that shadow of the middle ages which lingered across the rising sun of capitalism. That issue was settled by powder and ball. In this year of 1912 the question is, What part of the wealth created by the worker may he retain for his own use? This issue must be settled in the coming battle of ballots. The old

conservative parties have not only failed to make good their promise after election, but they have continually added burdens to the overburdened people. These new burdens serve to emphasize the necessity of a new political movement. The "progressive movement" now circling the earth is the beacon light that points "outraged humanity" to the fruit of labor and land of freedom. Movement, change, progress, is the law of life. When these cease with an individual or with a people there is death.

CHAPTER VIII

AS PHYSICAL NATURE HAS CHANGED SO HAS
MAN—HONOR TO WHOM HONOR—MASSES
NOT CONTENT WITH THEIR PRESENT CON-
DITION

Scientists tell us "that this earth has eleven distinct motions." "The falling through space of the sun at the rate of 450,000,000 miles a year with all its attendant planets." "The wild flight at the rate of 65,000 miles per hour around the sun." "The revolution of the earth on its own axis at the rate of 1,000 miles per hour." "The motion around the polar star and seven other motions." The flight of the earth while falling in the immensity of space turns with rapid speed. Not only the planet has great movements, but the land surface of the globe is as fluid and restless as the waves of the ocean. Mountain ranges now stand where once was

the floor of the ocean, and the ocean rolls where once lay the pleasant land. What is true of the physical world is true of the history of man. Progress in a thousand ways has raised the standard of living and increased the comforts of life. In all the professions and in every department of human activity there is change and progress. We have only reached our present stage of development by strenuous effort. And government is not an exception to all other rules. Many long years ago the tall shaft, hewn out of a single stone, which once stood on the banks of the Nile, the obelisk which still stands in the center of the piazza in front of the great Church of St. Peters was brought to Rome. The skillful engineers who were to raise it to the perpendicular, through some error in calculation, failed in their purpose. The great stone grandly, gracefully, impressively rose in the air, but when it lacked one or two inches of being in place it would go no further. It was necessary to lower the stone and the costly and historic work would

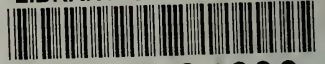
probably have been dashed in pieces on the pavement. At this critical moment, when the engineers were in confusion, from the immense crowd suddenly a voice rang out, "*Aqua a funi; aqua a funi!*"—"Water to the rope; water to the rope!" In an instant a few buckets of water were dashed on the rope. By capillary attraction the water quickly mounted the entire length of the ropes. They tightened, and like the needle of the compass the great monolith trembled into place. Upon inquiry, it was learned that the voice was that of an humble sailor boy. The Pope sent for him and, inquiring what reward he desired, was told that he asked that his native village of Bordighera might be authorized to keep the anniversary of that day in perpetual memory as a festival. Empires and dynasties have passed like autumnal leaves raised aloft and whirled along by the winds of winter, but the annual anniversary at Bordighera still goes on.

The theories which were laid down in 1776

for the public welfare have been thwarted and defeated by hostile interests. The measures to overcome these defeats are now before the public and will secure popular approval when once understood. This physical, tangible world is on the move. The population, gradually emerging from barbarism to our present civilization and reaching for still greater heights, are moving on. The force of public opinion has won in Russia, Persia, Turkey, and China. The abolition of slavery in this and other countries and of serfdom in Russia are but parts of a world-wide improvement in the condition of the toilers everywhere, upon whom in the last analysis depend the continued existence of the human race. With the diffusion of knowledge the importance of labor and the power in numbers, the masses in this country will not remain content with the small share allotted them, out of the results of their toil and their relative importance in government. No country can remain safe and prosperous in which the people are not extending their pow-

ers, enlarging their privileges and incorporating themselves with the functions of government. The people will ultimately win, and victory will sit on their banner with folded wings.

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